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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 80

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

MIMI STEWART

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT  
ASSEMBLE A PANEL OF EXPERTS TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT STUDY OF  
THE FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES PROGRAM CREATED BY ARTICLE 3A  
OF THE CHILDREN'S CODE.

WHEREAS, the families in need of services program was  
statutorily created in 1993 to replace the children in need of  
supervision program; and

WHEREAS, the thrust of the families in need of services  
program is aimed at reducing juvenile crime through early  
intervention, while the children in need of supervision program  
did not come into contact with the child until a legal issue  
arose and the child was in the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, when the families in need of services program was  
statutorily created in 1993, it was recognized that it would

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1 cost approximately six million five hundred thousand dollars  
2 (\$6,500,000) to fully implement the array of preventive services  
3 programs needed for at-risk children and their families through  
4 a community-based system, but the program was only provided an  
5 appropriation of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) in  
6 that first year for several pilot programs and has been greatly  
7 underfunded by the legislature every year since that time; and

8 WHEREAS, the primary responsibility of the protective  
9 services division of the children, youth and families department  
10 is to intervene in serious child abuse and neglect cases, but  
11 that division has attempted to fill the vacuum left by the  
12 unfunded mandate that the families in need of services program  
13 has become; and

14 WHEREAS, while the official purpose of the families in need  
15 of services program created by Article 3A of the Children's Code  
16 is to reduce juvenile crime through early intervention with  
17 preventive services offered in the community, the reality is  
18 that just the opposite is now occurring; and

19 WHEREAS, a study of the effectiveness of the program was  
20 conducted by a private, nonpartisan research entity and the  
21 report was finished in 1994, but was highly critical of the  
22 families in need of services program, so the study was not  
23 distributed; and

24 WHEREAS, because the study is not public knowledge, the  
25 reasons for the underfunding of the families in need of services

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1 program and the lack of or inefficiency of services offered that  
2 stem from that underfunding is not well understood by the  
3 agencies involved with that program; and

4 WHEREAS, a panel of persons and agencies involved with the  
5 families in need of services program should be assembled by the  
6 children, youth and families department to review Article 3A of  
7 the Children's Code and determine the scope of those problems,  
8 including the type of preventive services still needed and the  
9 cost to appropriately fund those services;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a panel of experts on the families in  
12 need of services program be assembled by the children, youth and  
13 families department to review Article 3A of the Children's Code  
14 and to determine what programs currently exist, which agencies  
15 are responsible for which services, existing gaps in those  
16 services, additional preventive and early intervention services  
17 needed by communities and any other problems related to the  
18 families in need of services program; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and  
20 families department and those experts report on their findings  
21 to the legislative health and human services committee and the  
22 courts, corrections and criminal justice committee no later than  
23 October 1, 1997; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be sent  
25 to the secretary of children, youth and families, the secretary

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1 of health, the secretary of human services, the superintendent  
2 of public instruction and the director of the administrative  
3 office of the courts.

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1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
2 FIRST SESSION, 1997  
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5 March 18, 1997  
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7 Mr. President:  
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9 Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been  
10 referred

11  
12 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 80, as amended  
13

14 has had it under consideration and reports same with  
15 recommendation that it DO PASS.  
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17 Respectfully submitted,  
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21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Shannon Robinson, Chairman  
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25 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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The roll call vote was 4 For 2 Against

Yes: 4

No: Adair, Ingle

Excused: Boitano, Feldman, Vernon

Absent: None

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